

P. B. Cornwall Building
1011-1013 Second Street
Sacramento
Sacramento County
California

HABS No. CAL-1257

HABS,
CAL,
34-SAC,
47-

PHOTOGRAPHS

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20243

7-2-80

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NATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING RECORD
 HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

HABS CAL 34-SAC, 47-

STATE CALIFORNIA		COUNTY SACRAMENTO	TOWN OR VICINITY SACRAMENTO
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) P. B. CORNWALL BUILDING (Local source.)			HABS NO. CAL-1257
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Restored as Smith Building, 1970s.			
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 1011-1013 Second St.			
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) First story built ca. 1853, second story added ca. 1865.		ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) -----	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Building's name taken from a prominent local politician who was the owner of two previous buildings on this site. Typical commercial structure of Old Sacramento in mid-1800s.			
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)			
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brick, two stories, flat roof.			
SIZE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Rectangular shape.			
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Five-bay front with central "rusticated" slightly projecting bay has cornice missing, second floor has round-arched double-hung windows with round-headed drip molding and tapered label stops, first floor has four segmentally arched openings with molded archivolts, resting on cornices of pilasters below, central round-headed arch opening has plaster scored to simulate Florentine surround and rustication.			
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)			
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Restored as Smith building, 1970s.			
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE			
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE			
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDE LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) by B. Woodbridge, Architectural Historian, Berkeley, California.			
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Lucy Pope Wheeler, HABS Writer/Editor		DATE 11/4/80	

PHOTOGRAPHY-DATA BOOK REPORT

NO. CAL - 1257

Historic American Buildings Survey

HABS
CAL,
34-SAC,
47-

THE P. B. CORNWALL BUILDING

Sacramento, Sacramento County, California

Address: 1011-1013 Second Street
Occupant: Vacant
Use: Stores on ground floor; offices on second floor. In later years a restaurant and rooming house.

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

While P.B. Cornwall never owned or occupied the existing so-called P.B. Cornwall Building, he had owned and occupied two earlier buildings presumably on the same site; the first being destroyed in the fire of November 2, 1852; the second (built circa 1853) being rebuilt or raised to the new higher grade of Second Street in 1865.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Pierre Barlow Cornwall was from New York, arriving in Sacramento early in 1848. He was an early business associate of Samuel Brannan and Priest & Lee, establishing one of the earliest real estate brokerages in Sacramento. He is listed as occupying a "land office" at 41 Second Street in Sacramento's first directory of 1850.

After Captain William H. Warner had surveyed and laid out the new city of Sacramento in December of 1848 for John A. Sutter, Jr., Cornwall claimed to have built Sacramento's first building in February of 1849 for Priest & Lee.

In his directory for 1850, J. Horace Culver claimed the first building was erected at Front and "J" Streets by Sam Brannan in January of 1849; the Hensley and Reading building at Front and "I" Streets being second, and Priest & Lee & Co. at Second and "I" Streets being third. At any rate, Cornwall was one of the first to devote all of his efforts to real estate.

Cornwall was one of the first councilmen chosen to form a city government in July of 1849, and he was elected representative of Sacramento District in the Assembly of the first State Legislature in 1850.

Cornwall is last listed as a resident of Sacramento in the 1858-59 Directory. The address, 41 Second Street, under the old street numbering system that maintained until 1880, would correspond to the present address of 1011 Second Street, 43 corresponding to 1013.

Due to the flood of 1861-62, Second Street was raised a story height in 1865, at which time the building was owned by Ella C. Smith, who was probably responsible for either raising or rebuilding the building to the new street level.

In 1870 Otto Hanson maintained his tailor shop and residence at 43 Second (1013) Street.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The present condition of the front facade, while lacking the main cornice and original sash and doors of the ground floor openings, retains enough of the architectural details from the 1855 period to give a good idea of its appearance at that time. The paneled pilasters between arched openings of the ground floor; flattened arches; belt course at second floor window sills; rounded, arched second floor windows with moulded drip-moulds terminating on ornamental brackets at arch spring-line; simulated masonry quoin rustications, etc.; are all details similar if not identical to those of both the Rialto Building at 228-230 "J" Street and the Apollo Building at 225-230 "K" Street. Both of these latter buildings had the second floors added in 1865, and it may have been that the P.B. Cornwall Building was also but a one story building until the raising of Second Street in 1865.

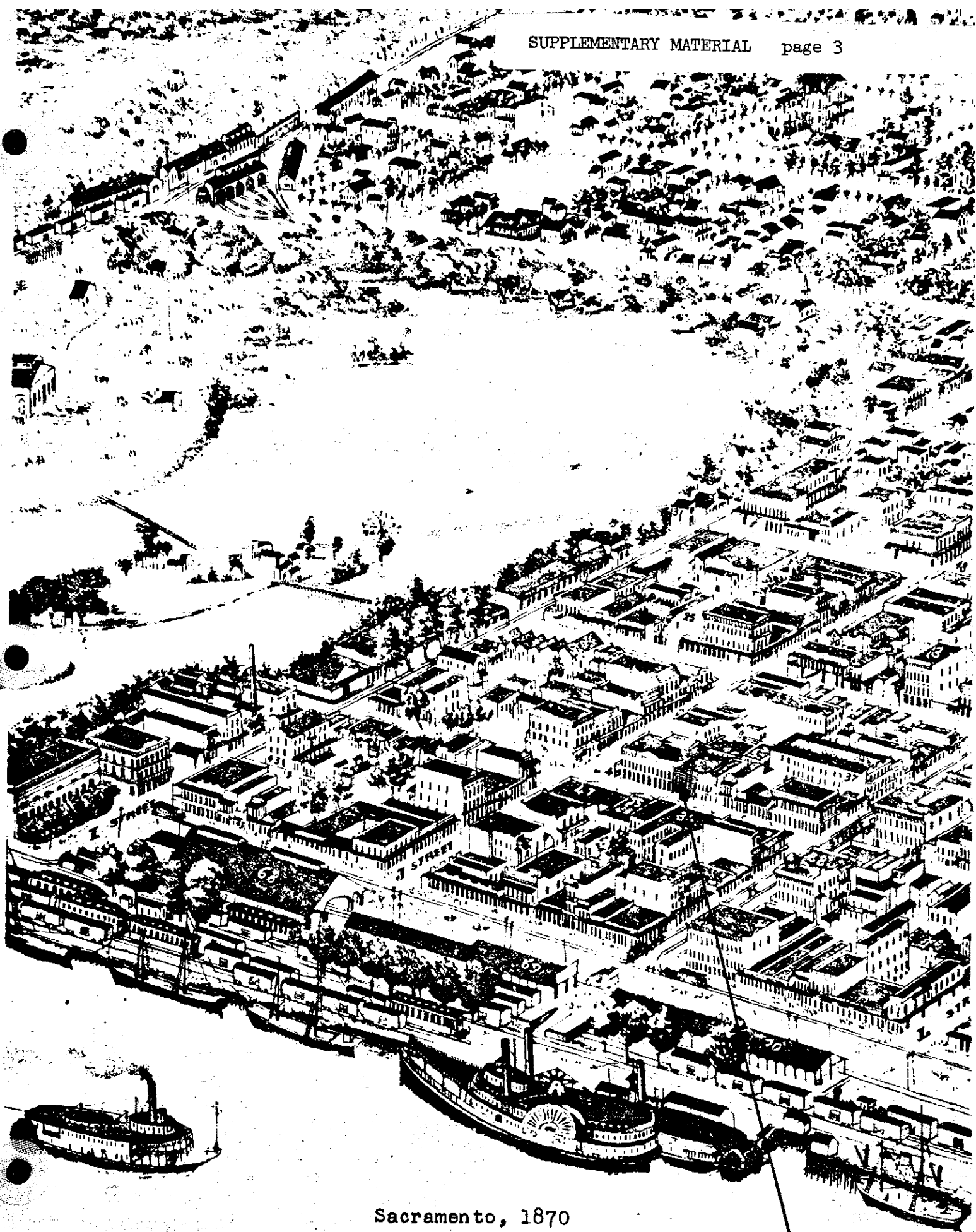
REFERENCES:

1. Sacramento Directories; 1850-1870
2. Sacramento Guide book; (Bee 1939)
3. Sacramento Saga; (1946)
4. John A. Sutter, Jr., Statement; (1855)
5. HABS drawings and photographs of Rialto and Apollo Buildings

Prepared by

Clyde F. Trudell, Architect

April 1969



Sacramento, 1870

P. B. CORNWALL
BUILDING